

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CCO-00 USSS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

ACDA-19 DRC-01 /109 W

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O 311839Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0362

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 8825

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA FOUR)

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR IS US

SUBJ: ISRAELI ATTITUDES TOWARD US: THE MOOD IN RECENT DAYS

1. UNDERSTANDABLY PUBLIC MOOD IN ISRAEL HAS BEEN FLUCTUATING SHARPLY OVER PAST WEEK ON MOST EXTERNAL ISSUES, INCLUDING THAT OF US-ISRAELI RELATIONS. CURRENT ATTITUDE TOWARDS UNITED STATES, AS REFLECTED IN OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH ISRAELIS AS WELL AS OUR READING OF PRESS, MAY BEST BE CHARACTERIZED AS CONFUSION AND SPREHENSION ABOUT US INTENTIONS. ON ONE HAND, ISRAELIS ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR MASSIVE US ASSISTANCE DURING WAR WHICH THEY BELIEVE CAME AT CRITICAL POINT. ON OTHER HAND, ISRAELIS ARE DISPLAYING REALIZATION (FOR FIRST TIME) OF NEAR TOTALITY OF ISRAEL'S DEPENDENCE ON US. THIS HAS HELPED GENERATE ANXIETY OVER POSSIBILITY OF STRONG US PRESSURE ON MATTERS OF VITAL CONCERN TO ISRAEL. THIS SITUATION HAS ALSO
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RESULTED IN SOME QUESTIONING OF IDEAS ISRAELIS HAD ABOUT

US AND ISRAEL PRIOR TO OUTBREAK OF WAR.

2. BEFORE OCTOBER 6 ISRAELIS WERE CONVINCED THAT US INITIATIVE ON MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS WAS IN OFFING. THEY ARGUED AT THAT TIME THAT ISRAEL WAS STRONG ENOUGH TO RESIST US PRESSURE IF IT CAME TO MAKING CONCESSIONS THAT ISRAEL BELIEVED SHOULD NOT BE MADE. CONCURRENT WITH THIS ARGUMENT, ISRAELIS SAID THAT IS WAS IN US GLOBAL AND REGIONAL INTERESTS TO ASSIST ISRAEL AND MAKE SURE THAT ISRAEL REMAINED STRONG. REGARDLESS OF FEELINGS OF FRIENDSHIP THAT US HAD FOR ISRAEL, US SUPPORT WOULD BE FORTHCOMING BECAUSE OF AMERICAN STRATEGIC INTERESTS.

3. VALIDITY OF FIRST ARGUMENT, THAT ISRAEL IS STRONG ENOUGH TO SAND UP TO US PRESSURE, IS BEING QUESNTIONED BY MANY ISRAELIS TODAY. THIS ARGUMENT IS STILL BEING VOICED BY SOME, BUT IT RINGS HOLLOW IN EARS OF MANY OTHERS. BELIEF IS WIDE-SPREAD THAT (A) US ARMS AIRLIFT WAS MAJOR IF NOT DECISIVE FACTOR IN TURNING OF WAR'S TIDE IN ISRAEL'S FAVOR, AND THAT (B) US GLOBAL ALERT OF OCTOBER 25 PREVENTED MASSIVE SOVIET PRESSURE ON ISRAEL. FEELING OF ISRAELI DEPENDENCE ON US WAS HAMMERED HOME BY DEFMIN DAYAN IN YESTERDAY'S KNESSET DEBATE (ANALYSIS OF KNESSET SITUATION BY SEPTTEL) WHEN HE SAID THAT "ANYONE WHO SUGGESTS THAT WE WAGE THIS WAR WITH A RIFT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE US IS SUGGESTING THAT WE WILL NOT WIN THE WAR."

4 ARGUMENT THAT IT IS IN US GLOBAL AND REGIONAL INTERESTS TO ADI ISRAEL IS STILL HSERD, BUT NOT WITH SAME CONVICTION AS BEFORE WAR BROKE YUT. THOUGHTFUL ISRAELIS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT PRESSURES THEY SEE ON US, SUCH AS DETENTE DISARRAY, OIL BOYCOTTS, AND NATO STRAINS, FOGNUS TO SCALE DOWN EXTENT OF ITS SUPPORT OF ISRAEL OR AT LEAST COME TO UNDERSTANDING WITH USSR ON MIDDLE EAST ISSUES WITHOUT SUFFICIENT ADVANCE CONSULTATION WITH GOI

5. QUESTION ON MOST ISRAELIS' MINDS ON EVE OF MRS MEIR'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON, THEREFORE, IS TO WHAT EXTENT ISRAEL WILL HAVE VOICE IN DETERMINING ITS OWN DESTINY. THEY ARE COUNTING ON MRS MEIR TO ENSURE THAT ISRAEL'S VOICE WILL BE

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EFFECTIVE ONE.
KEATING

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Message Attributes

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